

"DOMINANT IN BATTLE"

THE DOMINANT NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 7 JUNE 2012

It is no secret that Crew DOMINANT has begun another deployment to the Central Arabian Gulf in support of operations in FIFTH FLEET. We have been here for a little longer than a month, and we have much to report.

We have participated in several exciting evolutions and an exercise called the US/UK Mine Countermeasures Exercise (MCM-EX). As you probably can tell, MCM-EX was an international exercise that involved United States and United Kingdom Royal Navy mine countermeasures forces that worked together to clear an exercise minefield. The exercise began in early June and lasted just over two weeks. For ten days, Crew DOMINANT performed very well underway alongside our US and UK ships. Additionally, we embarked an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) detachment for the duration of the exercise. The scope of the exercise also included US MH-53s and Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs) that were used to hunt and sweep other areas of the minefield. The exercise was a re-sounding success and helped to further refine our underwater, air and surface mine countermeasures skills and practice operating together alongside our UK allies.



A 40-pound C4 charge is detonated by USS GLADIATOR's embarked EOD Detachment as part of the US/UK MCM Exercise on 14JUN12.

Don't forget to follow MCM Crew DOMINANT on [Facebook](#)! Our OMBUDSMAN, Mrs. Valerie Williamson, updates the page regularly. We will continue to share pictures of events and post information and resources to help keep you informed while we are away. Be sure to check out the video that's posted which shows the movie of the EOD's underwater C4 charge that was detonated as part of the US/UK MCM-EX!

In the coming pages, you will find that each department has written a piece to highlight their own accomplishments since the April newsletter. We have put the spotlight on several of our Sailors with noteworthy accomplishments, and included a few pictures of our recent operations, including gunnery exercises and damage control drills.

We would also love to hear from YOU! If you would like to contribute an article from the perspective of a family member of a Sailor or have another idea please forward them along to john.morgan@mcm11.navy.mil.

John R. Morgan III
First Lieutenant

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CO's COMMENTS

Greetings, Crew DOMINANT family and friends! I hope that everyone is doing well. It was very nice to see everyone who was able to attend our final Family and Friends BBQ at Mariner's Park last month. Since that day, your Sailors have accomplished quite a bit. We are now embarked on USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11) as part of the Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF) stationed in Manama, Bahrain. We completed hull turnover with MCM Crew REAPER on May 20th and went to work getting familiar with a new ship. As with USS CHIEF, this is the first time that Crew DOMINANT has embarked USS GLADIATOR. Two weeks later we participated in a very successful combined Mine Countermeasures exercise with the Royal Navy called US/UK MCM-EX. The exercise lasted 14 days with ten days at sea. It gave us the opportunity "to train as we plan to fight" alongside the UK MCM forces. Your Sailors performed superbly and further strengthened our reputation as an MCM Crew who is ready to complete any assigned tasking.



We are now in a maintenance availability. USS GLADIATOR is having a wide variety of routine and corrective maintenance items performed on her by your Sailors and off ship Contractors. The work items range from cleaning the sewage system to overhauling one of our ship's service generators. We have a busy summer ahead of us and this maintenance period is going to allow your Sailors to continue to operate USS GLADIATOR to support all of our assigned operations.

In the last week, there has been a very exciting change to the Bahrain waterfront. On June 23rd, USS SENTRY, USS DEVASTATOR, USS PIONEER and USS WARRIOR joined the four FDNF MCMs. They are here on a planned 7 month deployment to augment our MCM forces in FIFTH Fleet. We are excited to have them here and we are looking forward to operating with them.

Stay tuned to our Facebook Page and the e-mails that our OMBUDSMAN (Mrs. Valerie Williamson) is sending out for events that will be occurring in the San Diego area and for our Family Readiness Group (FRG). I would like to personally thank Mrs. Megan Moran and Mrs. Teresa Crum for completing the FRG leader training. More information will be released shortly pertaining to the first FRG event. If you are not receiving e-mails from our OMBUDSMAN and you would like to be added to the crew's family and friends e-mail list, please e-mail her at "dominantfamily@gmail.com". You can also become a fan of our crew's Facebook page to receive up-to-date information concerning Crew DOMINANT and special events and activities for dependents in the San Diego area.

We've had a few new crewmembers join Crew DOMINANT over the past two months that I'd like to welcome: LT Baes, YN1 Smith, EM3 Barnes, ENFN Botkin, and MNSA Lemke into the Crew DOMINANT family!

The transition period from the school year to the summer break is upon us. If you have the opportunity, please check into the summer activities that are being offered by Fleet and Family. They have a large number of outstanding events planned this summer across the bases in the San Diego area covering all age groups.

Until next month, I hope you enjoy the beginning of summer!

M. T. Erdner
Commanding Officer

XO's POST

Salutations from the land where sunglasses are practically mandatory! Your intrepid Crew DOMINANT has once again shifted to a new ship, this time halfway around the world to USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11). Our time on USS CHIEF (MCM 14) was a little too short to get to know that ship as well as we would have liked, but we made the best of the time we had aboard to refresh our skills and complete the first full Certification Verification completed by any ship in the Navy under the new Surface Force Readiness Manual. Once again we left a ship better off than she was when we got her and set CHIEF up for a successful period in the shipyard.

GLADIATOR has been on the tip of our nation's spear for several years now, but this is Crew DOMINANT's first opportunity to embark her and we're working overtime getting settled in while working the kinks out of the equipment. The hard work and dedication has paid off and we're back at sea participating in a multi-

national exercise getting lots of practice and reorienting ourselves to the challenges of working in the Arabian Gulf.

You know you're getting acclimated when you walk into a 90°F room and get chills from how cool the temperature seems!



Thank you all for taking care of the home front while we're all tied up taking care of the needs of our Nation. We couldn't do it without your caring support and we are very grateful for all that you do to help the crewmembers keep their heads in the business of life at sea.

CMC's BLOG

Let's Beat the Heat ---- "It's SUMMERTIME"

Summer's here, the kids are home, the weather is warm and everyone is looking forward to a nice vacation, visiting friends and family to celebrate the summer season with lots of outdoor activities. Here are some tips to beating the heat and preventing heat-related health conditions:

- Wear light-colored, lightweight clothing that is loose-fitting for air circulation.
- Wear a hat or use an umbrella when outside, even if you are not in the direct sun. Use sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater any time you go outside.
- Water is the beverage of choice in the summer. Drink water before outdoor activities and drink water at regular intervals during the day. Avoid beverages that can aid in dehydration.
- Try to schedule outdoor activities for cooler times of the day--before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m.
- During outdoor activity, take rest breaks frequently and drink water every 15 to 20 minutes, even if you don't feel thirsty.

- If you have a chronic medical problem, talk with your doctor about additional precautions you should take to prevent heat-related illness. Some conditions and medications may place you at higher risk.
- If you show any signs of heat related illness try to get to a cooler place as soon as possible, sip some cool fluids and sponge yourself off with lukewarm tap water.

Lastly, my favorite thing to do during the heat of the day is to watch movies with the kids like *Ice Age I and II*, *March of the Penguins*, *Polar Bears*, or another icy movie. **Thinking COOL helps.** Your Sailors are doing a great job on deployment and look forward to your letters, e-mails, packages (cookies!), and, when in port, your voice - whether on Skype or a simple phone call. Thanks again for all the **SUPPORT** and enjoy your day, because you deserve it!



CHENG's PIT

May has been a busy month for MCM Crew DOMINANT's engineers as the crew has flown to Bahrain to take over responsibilities aboard USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11). The Engineering Department had to contend with several engineering issues immediately upon arrival. The resilient Sailors in Engineering rose to the occasion and worked hard to get the ship's air conditioning system up and operational. Special thanks to EN1 Edgar Munoz, EN1(SW) Terrell Morgan and ENFN(SW) Joshua Oladapo for their dedication and expertise in conducting depot-level repairs to this system. Few ships even *attempt* the level of repair work that they accomplished masterfully. Additionally, several other critical repairs were conducted by the Engineering Department to get the ship ready to operate underway and participate in a joint exercise with the British Royal Navy.

Fair winds and following seas to LT Russell Bryant, who led the Engineering Department for Crew DOMINANT for the last year and a half. LT

OPS's STAND

Crew DOMINANT recently returned from a ten-day underway while participating with the Royal Navy during US/UK MCM-EX. The exercise was designed to simulate a mission to clear the Strait of Hormuz and was, by far, the most realistic scenario our crew has seen in over a year. After a couple days of maneuvering, signaling, and gunnery exercises, our force of US and UK minesweepers began hunting in order to clear a channel for safe passage. Our team in Combat and on the bridge faced a steep learning curve, but we quickly adapted to working in close proximity with a foreign navy. By the end of the exercise each crewmember had found their stride and began to settle into a good operating routine. Although none of the inert training mines laid for the exercise were in the areas we cleared, GLADIATOR was on station more than any other vessel and accomplished all of her assigned mission tasking.

Bryant's hard work and leadership helped guide the department through several challenging inspections, including

INSURV, and through three shipyard maintenance periods. We wish LT Bryant good luck on his future tours. LT Clayton Beas has arrived onboard and assumed responsibilities as the Chief Engineer.

Finally, Engineering extends its best wishes to EN1(SW) Terrell Morgan and his wife, who are celebrating the birth of their second child. To all of our friends and families back home, stay safe and know that we miss you.



ENC Strong and IC1 Simmons watch the EOOW console during a DC drill.



MNC (SW/EXW) Stone, CS2 Nguyen, ET3 Morris, MN3 Rakestraw, and MNSN Pierce pose on the forecastle.

Operations Department extends its congratulations and warmest wishes to MNSN Cain Long and his girlfriend for the birth of their first child, Bailey Rose Long, born healthy on June 3rd.

SUPPO's BIN

The Supply Department for MCM Crew DOMINANT began the 2012 Deployment with a very new look. With the additions to the S-2 side of CS1 Shawn Davis, CSSN Ross and CSSA Starzec, we are looking for this deployment to have a very different direction. The first few weeks has seen everyone settling in on USS GLADIATOR and getting used to being in the Middle East again. For the majority of the department it is at least our second time over here, and it is LS3 Rosas's fourth time. I know we are all looking forward to the opportunity to experience many of things Bahrain has to offer.

During the most recent underway the Culinary

Specialists were able to put some of their skills on display. By providing hot chow and being flexible, as

always, they were able to help boost crew morale. The late night cookies and brownies were excellent "pick-me-

ups" to the crew as they burned the midnight oil

correcting casualties and driving the ship. Bravo Zulu to CS1 Davis and CS2 Nguyen for stepping up and changing the face of S-2 with new leadership style.

A special hello goes out to our friends and families back home and, as always, we look forward to hearing from you in the future.



On June 11th, USS GLADIATOR "rafted" outboard of RFA CARDIGAN BAY to take on food stores, fuel and spare parts.

THE PODIUM

AWARDEES

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal Recipients: IT1 (SW) Goodson, EM3(SW/AW) Barnes.

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal Recipient: LT Bryant.

Senior Sailor of the Quarter



PS1 (SW) Adamson

Junior Sailor of the Quarter



MN3 Trinidad

NEW "SURFACE WARRIORS" – Congratulations to our newly-pinned shipmates!

LTJG Rajnay, ENS Montgomery, MN2 (SW) McReynolds, MN3 (SW) Trinidad.

RE-ENLISTMENTS – ET2(SW) Martire.

FAREWELLS – LT Bryant, IT1 (SW) Goodson.

"DOMINANT IN BATTLE"

NEW ARRIVALS



LT Beas



CS1(SW/AW) Davis



YN1(SW/AW) Smith



EM2 Adams



IT2 Watkins



EM3(SW/AW) Barnes



QM3(SW) Rabindranath



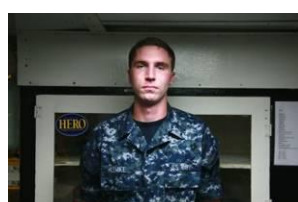
MN3 Martin



CSSN Ross



ENFN Botkin



MNSA Lemke



CSSA Starzek

BRAVO ZULU, MASTER CHIEFS!

MCM Crew DOMINANT congratulates two of the Navy's newest Master Chiefs!



MNCM (SW) Williamson and CMDCM (SW/AW) Bernard pose after being frocked.

"DOMINANT IN BATTLE"

PROMOTIONS AND ADVANCEMENTS: Congratulations to our newly promoted and advanced shipmates:

LT Cass

EN2 Hailey

EN3 Peterman

LT Sezate

IT2 Watkins

MN3 Lewand

LTJG Rayjnay

MN2 Moreno

MN3 Arrand

ENS Montgomery

EN3 Tolleson

MONTH IN PICTURES

